

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Claim 1 (previously presented): A cordless blind comprising:

a headrail;

a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a drive actuator including:

a spring motor,

a spool coupled to the spring motor and having a first axis,

a first tensioning mechanism having a second axis, and

a second tensioning mechanism having a third axis,

wherein the first and second tensioning mechanisms are configured to provide a resistant force on movement of the first and second cords, and wherein the first, second and third axes are parallel.

Claim 2 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 1, wherein the drive actuator is mounted in the headrail.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The cordless blind of Claim 1, wherein the spring motor includes a storage drum having a fourth axis, an output drum having a fifth axis, and a spring member coupled to the storage drum and the output drum, wherein the fourth and fifth axes are parallel to the first, second and third axes.

Claim 4 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 1, wherein the spool shares an axis with one of the storage drum and the output drum.

Claim 5 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 4, wherein the spool includes a first and second slot configured to receive the first and second cords, respectively.

Claim 6 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 1, wherein the first and second tensioning mechanisms are first and second winding members.

Claim 7 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 6, wherein the first and second winding members each include a compliant outer surface.

Claim 8 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 7, wherein the compliant outer surface is an elastomeric material.

Claim 9 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 7, wherein the first and second cords are wound around the first and second winding members at least once.

Claim 10 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 1, wherein the first and second tensioning mechanisms each include a tensioning pulley.

Claim 11 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 1, wherein the first and second tensioning mechanisms each include a wheel.

Claims 12 and 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A cordless blind of Claim 13, comprising:
a headrail;
a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord;
a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a drive actuator including:

a spool,

a spring motor coupled to the spool,

a biasing element coupled to the spring motor and configured to provide a force biased against movement of the bottom rail, wherein the biasing element is a belleville spring; and

a bias adjustment mechanism coupled to the biasing element, the bias adjustment mechanism being configured to provide a selective variable application of a biasing force by the biasing element.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A cordless blind ~~of Claim 15,~~ comprising:

a headrail;

a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a drive actuator including:

a spool,

a spring motor coupled to the spool,

a biasing element coupled to the spring motor and configured to provide a force biased against movement of the bottom rail;

a bias adjustment mechanism coupled to the biasing element, the bias adjustment mechanism being configured to provide a selective variable application of a biasing force by the biasing element, wherein the bias adjustment mechanism is a knob threaded onto an axle and configured to provide variable biasing force upon rotation; and further including

a spacer disposed between the knob and the biasing element, wherein rotation of the knob forces the spacer against the spring.

Claims 17-41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (currently amended): ~~The A blind of Claim 41, comprising:~~

a headrail;

a bottom rail suspended from the headrail;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a spring motor being adapted to apply a force to the bottom rail in the direction of the headrail; and

means for applying a varying amount of weight to the bottom rail to counterbalance the force of the spring motor, the amount of weight applied to the bottom rail being adapted to maintain the bottom rail in a given position with respect to the headrail, wherein the means for applying the varying amount of weight to the bottom rail includes an end plug configured to be inserted in an end of the bottom rail, the end plug includes a capped end and a body which narrows to facilitate insertion into the bottom rail, and wherein the body of the end plug includes a one or more slots defined by a plurality of walls, the slots being configured to receive a weight module.

Claim 43 (original): The blind of Claim 42, wherein the weight module is one of steel and lead.

Claim 44 (original): The blind of Claim 42, wherein the slots include a compliant retaining system configured to capture weight module in a secure

Claim 45 (original): The blind of Claim 44, wherein the compliant retaining system include walls are made from a compliant material and shaped so that the weight module is held securely by the one or more slots.

Claims 46-72 (canceled)